

I hereby certify that the first copy is not in the desk of H.L.H. (although a great many other things are) nor on top of his desk, nor in the folders on the book-case to the left of his desk, nor in the files on the shelves back of his desk, nor in or on Kramers' desk, nor in the filing case in the stacks.

Signed - Janet Bogardus.

P.S. I enjoyed the search,

Mr. Hanson,

would you

"OK" this for

photostating?

(1931-32 report.)

Truly,

I certify that the first
copy is not to be found in the
files of H. L. K.
signed (G. Boyer) —

REPORT OF THE RARE BOOK DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1932.⁶⁹

REPORT OF THE RARE BOOK DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1932.

The double task of the Department, first in looking after a number of special collections entrusted to the University, and second in building up a general key collection in the field of Rare Books, has been carried on during the second year.

I. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Seligman Library of Economics

During the year a great number of books were added to the Library by Professor Seligman. They were catalogued temporarily and shelved with the rest of the material by Miss Wilcox.

Dale Library of Weights and Measures

The final cataloguing of this collection was started early in the year. Miss Wilcox had almost completed this task when more urgent cataloguing problems made a change necessary. Approximately 1800 volumes were catalogued.

Smith Collection of Mathematics and Orientalia

With the beginning of the year, the care for this collection was entrusted to Miss Bertha Frick. The following data were submitted by her for use in this report:

About 9000 pieces (books and pamphlets) were checked and arranged in usable order. Of this number about 40% were already represented by some type of card which could be used for the time being. Slips for the other 60% were made and filed with them for temporary use. About half of these have been bookplated. It was impossible to bookplate the remainder as they have no kind of cover or binding. This repres-

ent s about 90% of the collection, exclusive of elementary texts, portraits, autographs, unbound manuscripts and Orientalia.

The collection of about 3000 portraits was arranged in alphabetic order in cases accessible for reference. These have not been listed.

About 50% of a collection of several thousand letters have been arranged in alphabetic order and are accessible for use, either in bound form or filed in drawers. These are listed but not filed with the book file.

A small part of the book and pamphlet collection is retained at Dr. Smith's home. However, these have been bookplated and are represented in the file. A good deal of the Oriental and manuscript material is also at his home. We have no list of this.

Reference work has been varied, both for Dr. Smith and readers. We have been able to make good use of the photostat to serve distant readers and scholars. There has been much interest in and use of, the letters and portraits.

It may be added that Miss Frick has worked with great concentration and efficiency. Her collaboration in the work of the Rare Book Department was substantial.

Plimpton Collection

During the year a number of rooms adjoining the present Seligman Library quarters were equipped with locked shelves, stacks, exhibition cases and reading facilities, to accomodate as a deposit the library of Mr. George A. Plimpton. The transfer of books from Mr. Plimpton's home was begun and the material that has been brought over so far is available for students' use. A group of special material, entrusted through Mr. Plimpton's generosity to the Curator of the Rare Book Department for use as instruction material in his courses, is held on deposit in the vault of the General Library, and is brought over for frequent use

to Schermerhorn Hall, being restored to the vault again after use.

Through Mr. Plimpton's generosity a further step in extending the use of his collection to Columbia University students has been accomplished. In special cases, manuscripts and printed books from his collection may, under reasonable restrictions, be made accessible at the Rare Book Department, which assumes responsibility for these books and supervises their use.

II. GENERAL COLLECTION

Acquisitions. The past year may be described as an economy year. No new allotment of funds was made. Therefore it was fortunate that a certain sum had been saved from the first year's generous appropriation. This remainder was made to last over most of the second year. Towards the end of the period a small sum was allotted to help bridge over the gap.

Accordingly, an effort was made to advance slowly on a broad line and to reinforce the position occupied at the end of the first year. No particular group received preferred attention except perhaps illustrated books of the 18th and 19th centuries, especially with wood engravings by English, French, German, American and Russian artists. Since this field has been left comparatively untouched by collectors, and items are obtainable at reasonable prices, their acquisition can be defended in view of the interest and the future significance of the material.

The most significant single acquisition of the year was the purchase of a Beneventan manuscript of exceptionally late date from the late Mr. Finkenstaedt of Munich. A generous special grant by the President of the University made it possible for the Library to own this important monument of mediaeval palaeography, which would be worthy of publication, if time and circumstances are favorable.

Among the gifts to the Rare Book Department, the number of which has shown a considerable increase in comparison with the first year,

the following donations may be mentioned specifically:

Mr. C. C. Kalbfleisch of New York has proven his continued interest in this Department with a series of well chosen individual gifts, spread over the entire year.

Mr. Philip Hofer, Curator of the Spencer Collection in the New York Public Library, has given a number of valuable printed books, especially of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Harrison of Paris, Publishers of Modern DeLuxe Editions, gave the Library a set of their recent issues.

The entire exhibition of books designed by members of the Book Clinic of the American Institute of Graphic Arts was given to the Library through the kind offices of Mr. Harry L. Gage, President of the A. I. G. A. A special bookplate was made to distinguish these books.

In describing the future aspects of this Department's buying policy, reference may be made to two special reports which the Curator submitted in the course of the academic year. By request of the Director of Libraries a report was written and submitted towards the end of the year 1931, to prove the necessity of funds for a reasonably broad development of the department. Special stress was laid on the importance of this Department in connection with the regular University courses in Palaeography, Book Production, Book Illustration, and Book Collecting. A definition of the principles which are being followed in the development of Columbia University's Rare Book Department is also given in the first special report. The second report, also submitted by special request of the Director of Libraries, contains a specified list of Desiderata in the various fields cultivated by this Department. It represents the result of over a year of detailed bibliographical search, and may be looked upon as a specific declaration of purchasing policy. The collaboration of Mr. Sidney Kramer, assistant to the Curator of the Department, in assembling and presenting this material should be mentioned here.

In order to avoid repetition, a good many important points brought out in the two previous reports are not mentioned again here. But the three reports, which supplement each other, should be looked upon as a coherent unit.

Transfer.

The transfer of material from the General Library and a few departmental libraries was continued during the year. A group of palaeographic works, needed for immediate use in class work, came over to Schermerhorn Hall and is being treated as the basis for a more extensive development in the near future. A further step in the transfer of Book Illustration Reference works from Avery Hall, which had been begun last year, was made this year, thus helping to fill a bad gap in the Reference section of the Department.

Although the transfer of coherent blocks of books from the General Library was completed last year, there remains a good deal of material from various sources which will be incorporated in the Rare Book Department as the progress of cataloguing permits.

The Incunabula Reference books, although greatly needed, both from the departmental and from the Library School standpoints, were not allowed to be transferred. The difficulties of the present situation are to be looked upon as a clear proof of the urgent need for this material in the Rare Book Department.

Cataloguing.

Beside the preparation of the abovementioned Desiderata list, the other main task of the year was the working out of a new classification for the Book Arts and Industries Reference books. This classification, submitted by the Curator of the Department, and approved with slight modifications, furnished the plan for the urgently needed cataloguing of the newly purchased Reference material and the recataloguing of the older and the transfer material. This was the task, referred to above, which made Miss Wilcox's immediate assistance desirable. The work is well under

way now.

More shelf space will be needed in Room 504 as the cataloguing progresses. It is suggested that the Korean Library, shelved temporarily in Room 504, be transferred to another department.

The cataloguing of the original examples of Book Production was continued by Miss Terry in the usual manner.

Care and
Repair.

The binding problem of the Seligman Library was studied and an estimate procured which may serve as the basis for further steps in this matter.

Professor David Eugene Smith has taken an active and personal interest in the physical care of the books in his collection and has provided a special fund for their repair.

Apart from the items in the Smith and Seligman collections, nearly a hundred books received special care and treatment, either by rebinding or repair, since the beginning of the Department. Besides the firm of Macdonald, whose assistance had already been enlisted during the first year, Mr. Peter Franck of Mount Vernon has done remarkably fine repair work. A number of other individuals have also been given try-out volumes. It is felt that such an encouragement of hand work, although on a small scale, is appropriate on the part of a library devoted to cultivating the arts of the book.

Use.

The use of the Department by students in the University continued to be satisfactory, especially from participants in the Library School courses in the history of books and libraries.

An important innovation was the giving of Dr. Rockwell's course in Palaeography at the actual quarters of the Department. The opportunity of drawing without delay on the material assembled in the Reference Collection proved convenient and satisfactory.

The assembling of all courses on the history of Writing and the Book in the Rare Book Department as a physical and spiritual center has thus

made some progress. A new course in Book Collecting, to be given by Mr. Philip Hofer, will be held at the Rare Book Department, and steps are being made at present to transfer Dr. Frank Weitenkamp's course in Book Illustration from the New York Public Library where it is presently being held, to this Department.

Professor Baldwin brought his Barnard class, English 53, on January 13, 1932, for a special exhibition and lecture, thus repeating his last year's visit.

Among the great number of visitors, which included such international authorities in the history and arts of the book as Professor Haseloff of Kiel, Professor Glaser of Berlin, Professor Hammer of Florence, the following visiting groups may be mentioned:

On April 20th the members of the American Institute of Graphic Arts assembled in Schermerhorn Hall previous to an "Alice" meeting at Avery Library, where they visited the Lewis Carroll Centenary Exhibition.

On May 9th, The Archons of Colophon.

Book Study
Club.

The last year has brought an innovation in the extending of the library facilities to a group of persons interest in the Bookmaking field. The informal organization under the name of "The Book Study Club" of a number of librarians of special collections and former students from Dr. Lehmann-Haupt's courses has proved its usefulness and possibilities in a series of well attended monthly meetings.

There were talks by Mr. Ivins on the influence of prints in the history of book making; by Mr. Blumenthal on the making of a type face; by Mr. Blackburn on his Carroll collection; by Mr. Hofer and Mr. Jackson on auctions past and present, with special reference to the Lothian Sale; by Mr. Fielstra on Bookplates; by Miss Meixell on binding problems; by Mr. Sealock on American Steelengraving in the early 19th century; and by Mr. Josephy on the modern book designer and his function.

It is planned to continue the activities of the club with a similar

program in October 1932. An effort to interest a group of Undergraduates in the activities of the Department through these meetings was unsuccessful.

Publications and Lectures. The monthly reviews of "Books about Bookmaking" in the monthly Bookmaking Department of Publishers' Weekly, conducted by the Curator of the Rare Book Department were continued during the year. They are mentioned as one of the obvious extensions of this library's facilities to a more general public.

The Russian Woodengravings in a group of 19th century books recently acquired by this Department were the subject of an article, in German, written by the Curator for the International Gutenberg Yearbook, 1932.

The Curator was asked to lecture on the Fifty Books of the Year at Connecticut College, New London, Conn., and at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.

Exhibitions. Early this year Miss Wilcox prepared an exhibition from the Seligman material to illustrate "Past Depressions". The exhibition received considerable comment in the press and was well visited.

An Exhibition of Old Children's Books, prepared by Mr. Kramer, is now on view in the fifth floor corridor of Schermerhorn Hall, after having been presented earlier in the year at Avery Library.

Columbia University
in the City of New York

THE LIBRARY

LOCAL

May 23, 1932

Some data concerning the Smith Mathematics Collection
for use in making the annual report of the Rare Book Department.

About 9,000 pieces (books and pamphlets) checked and arranged in usable order. Of this number about ~~40~~ 60 o/o were already represented by some type of card which could be used for the time being. Slips for the other 60 o/o were made and filed with them for temporary use. About ^{half} of these have been book-plated. (Impossible to book-plate the remainder as they have no kind of cover or binding.)

This represents about 90 o/o of the collection, exclusive of elementary texts, portraits, autographs, unbound manuscripts and Orientalia.

The collection of about 3,000 portraits ~~are~~ arranged in alphabetic order in cases accessible for reference. These have not been listed.

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